



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Oct. 13, 2008

Contact: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

LEAD MAY BE QUIETLY POISONING YOUR CHILDREN ***County Urges Parents to Get Children Tested for Lead Exposure;*** ***Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is Oct. 19 – 25***

Have your children been exposed to lead? Toys, ceramicware, candy and chips of dried paint could pose a hazard to your child in the form of lead poisoning. The only way to know if children have been exposed is to have their blood tested – lead poisoning may not be immediately apparent and can be the real cause of behavior problems or learning disabilities.

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), in an effort to increase awareness of lead poisoning in children, will offer free blood testing, answer questions about which household items can contain lead, and provide educational materials at several county locations during Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, Oct. 19 – 26, 2008. In addition to urging parents to get children tested, HHS encourages physicians to talk to their patients about lead exposure.

“We’ve heard a lot lately about sources of lead, from candy to toys to artificial turf,” said Chairman Greg Cox, County Board of Supervisors. “The best thing parents can do is be informed, and when appropriate, get their kids tested.”

“The County’s Public Health Centers offer low or no-cost testing for eligible individuals throughout the county,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. “Or, ask your healthcare provider about testing.”

Free finger-stick blood testing, and educational materials will be available at County Public Health Centers Tuesday, Oct. 21 through Friday, Oct. 24. Partner agencies also will offer free blood tests and materials. See the following table for dates, times, locations and contact information.

In 2007, San Diego County was third highest of 58 California counties in numbers of children testing positive for lead exposure. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 310,000 children ages one to five have high levels of lead in their blood. The major source of lead exposure among children in the United States is lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in deteriorating buildings.

CLPPP offers resources on lead poisoning prevention, including source information, testing information and home remodeling information. Call 619-515-6694 or visit the HHS website at <http://www2.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/ServiceCategoryDetails.asp?ServiceAreaID=93>. For information from the CDC, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm>

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Schedule of Clinics Offering Finger-Stick Blood Testing

| Date/Time | Location | Telephone |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Tuesday, Oct. 21 2 – 4 p.m. | North Central Public Health Center 2400 Grand Ave., San Diego, CA (Pacific Beach) 92109 | 858-490-4400 |
| Tuesday, Oct. 21 3 – 5 p.m. | Healthy Homes, Healthy Families Workshop Environmental Health Coalition 140 E. 12 th St. National City, CA 91950 | (619) 474-0220 ext. 121 |
| Wednesday, Oct. 22 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. | Bayside Community Center 2202 Comstock St. San Diego, CA 92171 | 858-278-0771 |
| Wednesday, Oct. 22 10 – 12 noon | South Region Public Health Center 690 Oxford St. Chula Vista, CA 91911 | 619-409-3110 |
| Thursday, Oct. 23 8:30 – 11 a.m. | Central Region Public Health Center 5202 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92105 | 619-229-5400 |
| Friday, Oct. 24 10 - noon | North Coastal Public Health Center 104 S. Barnes St., Oceanside, CA 92054 | 760-967-4401 |
| Friday, Oct. 24 2 – 4 p.m. | North Inland Public Health Center 606 E. Valley Parkway, Escondido, CA 92025 | 760-740-4000 |

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Schedule of Libraries Offering Information/Consultation on Lead Poisoning from CLPPP Staff

| Date/Time | Location | Telephone |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Tuesday, Oct. 21 11 – 12 noon | Casa de Oro Library 9805 Campo Road #180 Spring Valley, CA 91077 | 619-463-3236 |
| Wednesday, Oct. 22 2 – 4 p.m. | El Cajon Library 201 E. Douglas El Cajon, CA 92020 | 619-588-3718 |
| Wednesday, Oct. 22 4 – 5 p.m. | Chula Vista Library 365 F St. Chula Vista, CA 91910 | 619-691-5069 |
| Thursday, Oct. 23 3 - 4 p.m. | San Ysidro Library 101 W. San Ysidro Blvd. San Diego, CA 92173 | 619-424-0475 |
| Friday, Oct. 24 2 – 3 p.m. | Carlsbad Library 1775 Dove Lane Carlsbad, CA 92011 | 760-602-2011 |

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